

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an active network;

In a vehicle including the active network; comprising

a first device;

and a second device, wherein the first device and the second device are being communicatively coupled by an the active network; and,

a data packet for communication of data between the first device and the second device, the data packet comprising a header portion, a data portion, a trailer portion and an active portion.

2. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion provides active data related to the configuration of the active network.

3. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion provides active data related to the operation of one of the first device and the second device.

4. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion is integrated with the header portion.


5. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion is integrated with the data portion.

6. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion is integrated with the trailer portion.

7. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active network comprises a plurality of active network elements coupled by connection media, and wherein the active portion contains active data related to the configuration of the active network elements.

8. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein the active portion represents a state of an active network element of the plurality of active network elements and wherein the active network is operable to communicate the data packet corresponding to the state.

9. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a switch.

 10. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a bridge.

11. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one of the active network elements comprises a router.

12. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion contains active network timing information.

13. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion represents a packet state and wherein the active network is operable to communicate the data packet corresponding to the packet state.

14. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 13, wherein the packet state represents a priority state.

15. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 13, wherein the packet state represents an error state.

16. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 13, wherein the packet state represents a normal state.

P1 17. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion comprises information relating to the data packet origin.

18. (currently amended) The ~~vehicle~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the active portion comprises a receipt acknowledgement message.

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